

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
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R 111006Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5642
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 07784

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEAN, E
SUBJECT: US/ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS -- POINT OF
CONTACT

1. SUMMARY. SECRETARY ROMULO HAS SENT A FIRST PERSON
NOTE DATED MAY 8 TO THE CHARGE, CITING TWO INSTANCES OF
MISINFORMATION AND SUGGESTING USG COURSE ITS COMMUNICA-
TIONS ONLY THROUGH ASEAN DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT,
I.E., GOP. MRS. MANALO HAD MENTIONED THIS PROBLEM TO DAS
ERLAND HEGINBOTHAM DURING THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
MANILA AND TO EMBOFFS EARLIER. DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS
ARE REQUESTED FOR A REPLY TO ROMULO'S NOTE. END SUMMARY.

2. TEXT OF ROMULO NOTE FOLLOWS. BEGIN QUOTE: SIR: I
HAVE THE HONOR TO QUOTE, FOR YOUR INFORMATION, FROM A
NOTE I RECEIVED FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THAILAND
ON 12 APRIL 1978:

- "...I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT ON 4 APRIL 1978
THE THAI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS NOTIFIED BY THE
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US EMBASSY IN BANGKOK THAT IT WAS THE US GOVERNMENT'S
UNDERSTANDING THAT ASEAN, THROUGH THE PHILIPPINES, HAS
NOT ONLY AGREED TO UPGRADING THE SECOND ASEAN-UNITED
STATES DIALOGUE TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL BUT HAS ALSO ACCEPTED
THE DATES OF 24-25 JULY FOR THE MEETING...."

- AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE PHILIPPINES HAS NOT GIVEN ANY

INDICATION REGARDING THE DECISIONS OF ASEAN ON THE MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE AFORE-QUOTED NOTE PARTICULARLY SINCE NO SUCH DECISION HAS BEEN MADE.

- IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETING OF THE ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL AND STANDING COMMITTEE LAST WEEK IN BANGKOK, THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION WAS ALSO INFORMED BY SOME OF THE OTHER ASEAN DIRECTORS-GENERAL THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ALLOCATING AROUND US 30 MILLION DOLLARS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PROJECTS WITH ASEAN. THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION INFORMED THE MEETING THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES ON THE MATTER BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WHICH IS THE ASEAN COORDINATOR OF THE ASEAN-US DIALOGUE.

- I HAVE BROUGHT THESE MATTERS TO YOUR ATTENTION TO REQUEST THE US GOVERNMENT'S COOPERATION IN AVOIDING SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN THE FUTURE. I SUGGEST THAT HENCEFORTH, OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN BE COURSED ONLY THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA. THE PHILIPPINES WILL OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH ALL ASEAN COUNTRIES ALL ASEAN-US SUBJECTS COMING FROM THE UNITED STATES, AND IN TURN ALL SUBJECTS FROM ASEAN TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE COURSED BY THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH THE US EMBASSY IN MANILA.
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- I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF THE COOPERATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE US EMBASSIES IN THE ASEAN CAPITALS COULD BE SOUGHT ON THE FOREGOING.

- ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGH CONSIDERATION.
END QUOTE. TOUSSAINT

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